

23rd January 1928]

(b) The number of books purchased for the Connemara Public Library during each of the last ten years is given below :—

Year.	Number of books purchased.
1917-18	615
1918-19	344
1919-20	282
1920-21	189
1921-22	204
1922-23	207
1923-24	232
1924-25	259
1925-26	231
1926-27	241

The hon. Member may obtain particulars as to the number of books purchased for the Madras University Library from the Syndicate.

Control and management of the Oriental Manuscripts Library.

* 1304 Q.—MR. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to take early steps to transfer the control and the management of the Oriental Manuscripts Library to the University of Madras;

(b) whether it is a fact that a good number of the rare and valuable manuscripts in the said library are all heaped and thrown together in a room in an indiscriminate manner; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take necessary steps to locate the said library in a more spacious and safer building?

A.—(a) The question will be considered after the new University Library buildings are completed.

(b) No.

(c) There is at present no proposal to shift the library from its present habitation. If the University Library is removed from the premises of the Connemara Public Library, more space will become available for the Oriental Manuscripts Library.

Local Boards

Capsizing of the ferry boats conveying Roman Catholic pilgrims bound for Velanganni.

* 1305 Q.—MR. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some years ago the ferry boats conveying Roman Catholic pilgrims bound for Velanganni across a river at Negapatam capsized with the result that some pilgrims lost their lives;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, when this incident occurred and what was the extent of the loss to human lives;